



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **SECOND QUARANTINE AREA ESTABLISHED IN COUNTY FOR WEEVIL** *Exotic Pest Can Damage Crops, Plants*

A second quarantine area has been established in San Diego County for the Diaprepes Root Weevil. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has established a 2-square-mile quarantine for the weevil in the Olivenhain area of Encinitas. This pest was discovered on several lemon trees and one ornamental plant at several locations throughout this area.

All nursery stock, plants, plant parts and products, soil, sand, gravel, growing mediums, and dying or dead plant material are subject to restrictions on movement in and out of the quarantine area. A similar quarantine was established in May in the University City area of San Diego.

Homeowners are asked to contact a CDFA Hotline at 1-800-491-1899 before moving any of the above items out of the quarantine areas. Options for green waste disposal from the quarantine area are currently being evaluated.

The public's cooperation in implementing this quarantine is greatly appreciated. Left unchecked, this large weevil could significantly damage California agriculture, threatening more than 270 species of plants, including citrus and ornamental plants.

The County office of Agriculture, Weights & Measures (AWM) and the CDFA are evaluating the best options for management of this weevil population. Eradication may take three to five years.

Diaprepes root weevils, native to the Caribbean, generally infest Florida and part of Texas. Adult weevils feed on plant leaves while larvae feed on plant roots. Adults are about three-quarters of an inch in length, with markings on their backs ranging from black and orange to cream colored.

The public can help by reporting suspicious bugs on the **CDFA PEST HOTLINE at 1-800-491-1899** or 619-698-1046. For more information, visit AWM's web site, [www.sdcawm.org](http://www.sdcawm.org).

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